

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are outstanding. No claims have been canceled or added. Claims 1-22 have been withdrawn. Claim 23 has been amended. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Office Action. The present Response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. No new matter has been added by any of the amendments to the specification. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 23, 24 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Ray, III et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,308,679) in view of Miller (U.S. Patent No. 5,127,743) and Kon et al. (JP 62-62736).

The Examiner rejected claims 25 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Ray, III et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,308,679) in view of Miller (U.S. Patent No. 5,127,743) and Kon et al. (JP 62-62736) and as applied to claim 23 in further view of Walker (U.S. Patent No. 3,879,246).

In response to previous arguments made by Applicants, Examiner indicated that the claims did not require the upper layer of laminate film to completely cut in two laterally displaced locations such that a strip of the upper layer be completely detached on either side from the rest of the upper layer prior to entering the laminator.

Proposed amendments were sent to the Examiner and the amendments were discussed with the Examiner on November 3, 2005. Based upon the conversation, Applicants amended claim 23. Claims 23 through 27 are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request Examiner withdraw the rejection to claims 23 through 27.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has adopted the Examiner's suggestions and believes the claims are in condition for allowance. It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over references cited by Examiner and is now in condition for allowance. Applicant requests consideration of the application and allowance of the claims. If there are any outstanding issues that the Examiner feels may be resolved by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Chad E. Walter at 972.367.2001.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional payments that may be due for additional claims to Deposit Account 50-0392.

Respectfully submitted,

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